

Committee: Standards and General Purposes Committee

Date: 13 October 2022

Subject: Appointment of an Independent Person

Lead officer: Louise Round, Monitoring Officer

Lead member: Councillor Mike Brunt, Chair, Standards and General Purposes Committee

Contact officer: Amy Dumitrescu, Democracy Services Manager, 0208 545 3357

Recommendations:

- A. That Standards and General Purposes Committee recommends to Council to appoint Katy Willison for a further three year period as an Independent Person for the purposes of Chapter 7 of the Localism Act. The Independent Person will be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.
 - B. That the appointment is made for a period of three years from 6 February 2023.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report seeks the committee's approval of the appointment of one Independent Person which we are required to appoint under Chapter 7 of the 2011 Localism Act.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. Independent Persons are appointed for a maximum of two terms of three years. Katy Willison was appointed as an Independent Person in February 2020, with her term due to end on 6 February 2023.
- 2.2. Following confirmation from Ms Willison in discussion with the Monitoring Officer that she wishes to serve for a further term, the recommendation is to approve this appointment for another three years and not go through any further external recruitment process.
- 2.3. The functions of the Independent Person, set out in the Council's constitution are:
 - The Independent Person must be consulted and views taken into account before the authority takes a decision on any allegation it has decided to investigate;
 - The Independent Person may be consulted by the authority in circumstances where the authority is not taking a decision whether to investigate the allegation;
 - The Independent Person may be consulted by a member of the authority against whom an allegation has been made.
- 2.4. The Independent Person will also be invited to attend meetings of the Standards and General Purposes Committee in that capacity.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Council must appoint at least one Independent Person.
- 3.2. The Committee could agree to go to an external recruitment process.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The appointment, if agreed, would be made by Council in November 2022 and will take effect on 6 February 2023 when the current term ends for a period of three years.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Independent Persons are paid £100 per meeting. The recommendations in this report will not lead to any increase in the overall budget for allowances.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. See body of the report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None specific to this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None specific to this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None.

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 11.1. None.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None.